MASS. J6.2: D842/979

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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DRUG DEFENDANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS - 1979

(including 1976-1979 comparisons)

Joseph P. Foley, Commissioner

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April 7, 1980

802/23

DRUG DEFENDANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS: 1979

I. Introduction

Since 1974, the Research Department of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation has compiled statistics about the drug defendant population in Massachusetts. The purpose of this on-going research is to assess shifts in the volume of drug arraignments, age of defendants, class of drugs, and geographical region where arraignments occurred.

The data is drawn from court appearance records submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Probation statewide during four weeks of the calendar year. All court appearance records which include a new drug offense are included in the study. The four sample weeks are spaced throughout the year, to control for seasonal variation in drug arrests.

Data in this report includes only those defendants who were arraigned for drug offenses in superior, district and juvenile courts in the Commonwealth. The data does not reflect those arraigned in federal courts, those admitted to treatment programs, or those admitted to hospital crisis centers.

While the 1979 study analyzed criminal/delinquency arraignments on drug charges, it does not purport to draw conclusions on the conviction rate for controlled substance violations. This study only addresses various questions regarding drug defendants, not adjudicated offenders.

II. Methodology

Massachusetts is unique in that the Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) centrally maintains statewide files of criminal history information, dating back to 1924. The files include records of new charges, as well as the status of continued cases and dispositional information.

Only new charges, not continued or disposed cases, were counted in this study. Court appearance records had to list at least one drug offense (with or without other charges) to qualify.

A total of 1,329 juveniles and adults were charged with new drug crimes during the four sample weeks of 1979. All new drug arraignments were recorded during the following weeks in 1979: January 24-28, April 23-27, July 23-27 and October 15-19.

The 1979 sample total compares to 1,312 defendants being charged with new drug crimes during four sample weeks in 1978. The 1978 data was drawn from court appearance records received by the OCP during the weeks of: January 30-February 3, May 22-26, August 21-25 and November 13-17.

III. Definitions

1. Regions: Massachusetts cities and towns divided into seven (7) geographical areas as defined by the Department of Mental Health.

Region I	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties
Region II	Primarily Worcester County
Region III	Northern and northwestern Middlesex County and the Lowell area
Region IV	Essex County plus the Malden-Medford-Everett areas in Middlesex County
Region V	Most of Norfolk County plus the southernmost area in Middlesex County
Region VI	Suffolk County plus Brookline
Region VII	Southernmost Norfolk County plus the Brockton area and all of southeastern Massachusetts

2. Drug Classes: The classes in this report are those in the schedule used by the courts and established by the Legislature according to criteria of potentiality for abuse, degree of currently accepted medical usage and probability of physical or psychological dependence with Class A, the most serious and Class E, the least serious.

Class A	Heroin, other named opiates and opiate derivatives
Class B	Amphetamines, methamphetamine, cocaine, methadone, opium barbituates
Class C	Hallucinogens, including LSD, DMT, THC, Hashish, PCP
Class D	Marijuana and certain barbitals
Class E	Dilute mixtures of codeine, morphone or opium prescription drugs not named elsewhere
Other	Miscellaneous categories of drug offenses. (no controlled substances)

IV. Two-Year Data Analysis

Volume

This analysis covers the volume of defendants and not the amount of controlled substance involved in each reported offense.

In prior years, there had been a steady, substantial increase in the number of defendants reported annually. In 1979, this trend was diminished, with the volume increasing only one-percent. (n=1,329 in 1979 compared to n=1,312 in 1978).

The drug offense rate, measuring the ratio of offenses to population, was computed on state population estimates from the Department of Public Health.

Year	Est. Annual Volume of Drug Defendants	÷	Estimated Annual Population	=	Projected Drug Offense Rate p/100,000 pop.
1978	17,056*	÷	5,885,990	=	2.89
1979	17,277**	÷	5,911,598	=	2.92

*Based on 1,312 total defendants in 4 one-week samples
**Based on 1,329 total defendants in 4 one-week samples

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The proportion of drug offenses measured against the total of all criminal offenses reported to OCP files during 1979 was computed as follows:

Year	Est. Annual Drug Offenses Rec'd OCP Files	÷	Total Criminal Offenses Rec'd OCP Files	=	Percentage Drug Offenses
1979	17,277	÷	191,423	=	9.03%

The 1978 volume was not compared. It would not reflect a comparable percentage as Minor Motor Vehicle offenses were decriminalized on January 1, 1979, and were no longer reported to OCP files; only Major Motor Vehicle offenses are included in current criminal offense totals.

Age at Arraignment

The sample total of 1,329 defendants in 1979 reflected a 1 percent increase over the 1978 sample of 1,312 defendants. In 1979, the four one-week samples showed consistent volume, while the four samples in 1978 showed some seasonal variations.

TABLE I - AGE AT ARRAIGNMENT

Age	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
14/under	10	2	6	9	12	6	5	13	33	30
15-16	19	14	33	45	50	33	31	66	133	158
17-18	40	65	61	55	90	59	67	64	258	243
19-21	61	94	63	89	112	86	67	78	303	347
22-25	66	60	55	63	94	57	59	56	274	236
26/over	94	102	51	70	85	82	78	60	308	314
Age Unknown	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	3	1
	290	337	269	332	445	323	308	337	1,312	1,329

The only significant increase for 1979 was in the Juvenile age group (up to 17 years of age), up 13 percent when 1978 and 1979 samples were compared. Young Adults (17-25 years of age) declined 1 percent, while Adults (26+ years of age) increased 2 percent.

In examining the distribution of drug defendants under 26 years of age, the data demonstrates significant but varying shifts by young people. Juveniles 15 and 16 years of age increased 20 percent over the 1978 sample, 17 and 18 year olds declined 6 percent, and defendants between 19 and 21 years of age increased 15 percent. Defendants 22 to 25 years old showed 15 percent fewer cases in 1979.

These shifts in the age of defendants are reflected in the overall age distribution of the 1978 and 1979 samples:

Age	1978	1979
14 under	2.5%	2.2%
15-16	10.1%	11.9%
17-18	19.7%	18.3%
19-21	23.1%	26.1%
22-25	20.9%	17.8%
26 over	23.5%	23.6%
Unknown	.2%	.1%

Drug defendants continue to be clustered in the younger age groups, with 76 percent being under 26 years of age. Defendants 19-21 years old accounted for the highest volume in the 1979 sample.

Residence by Region

Comparison of the 1978 and 1979 samples indicate that Region II (primarily Worcester County) increased by 29 percent, and Region V (most of Norfolk County and the southernmost area of Middlesex County) increased 28 percent.

TABLE II - RESIDENCE BY REGION

Region	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
I	32	70	41	24	41	35	49	55	163	184
II	27	54	38	37	45	36	28	51	138	178
III	28	35	22	36	76	29	41	31	167	131
IV	36	24	26	66	55	37	39	32	156	159
V	39	41	32	54	61	50	28	59	160	204
VI	83	39	57	46	60	62	39	39	239	186
VII	42	61	44	64	83	73	70	67	239	265
Out/State	3	13	9	5	24	1	14	3	50	22
	290	337	269	332	445	323	308	337	1,312	1,329

Region III (Northern and Northwestern Middlesex County and the Lowell area) and Region VI (Suffolk County plus Brookline) both declined by about 22 percent. The volume of Out of State defendants decreased by 56 percent.

Region	Percent Change (1978 v. 1979)	Rank per Mental Health Region 1978	1979
I	+ 12.88%	4	4
II	+ 28.99%	7	5
III	- 21.56%	3	7
IV	+ 1.92%	6	6
V	+ 27.50%	5	2
VI	- 22.18%	1	3
VII	+ 10.88%	1	1
Out/State	- 56.00%	8	8

A word of caution should be given regarding the significance of these regional shifts. The data measures only new arraignments for drug offenses. It does not measure discretionary issues regarding police priorities. Some police departments place higher priority for drug offenders than do others, and the regional shifts may reflect these discretionary issues rather than actual increases or decreases in drug usage.

Court/County of Arraignment

This 1979 study further refined the regional distribution by coding defendants based on the court and county of arraignment.

TABLE III - COURT OF ARRAIGNMENT

CT. No.	COURT	Weekly Totals Jan 24	Apr 23	July 23	Oct 15	TOTAL
1.	Boston	16		8	7	31
2.	Roxbury	5	11	7	5	28
3.	South Boston	3			5	8
4.	Charlestown					
5.	East Boston	1	3	3	6	13
6.	West Roxbury	3	9	5	9	26
7.	Dorchester		4	21		25
8.	Brighton	2	1			3
9.	Brookline	1				1
10.	Somerville	3	1	7	5	16
11.	Lowell	19			4	23
12.	Newton		11	2	5	18
13.	Lynn	3	5	15	11	34
14.	Chelsea	4	9	8	5	26
15.	Brockton	16	9	3	30	58
16.	Fitchburg	3	3	1	8	15
17.	Holyoke	1	3	2	9	15
18.	Lawrence	2	7	2		11
19.	Lee			1		1
20.	Chicopee	1		7	3	11
21.	Marlborough	9	4	17	8	38
22.	Newburyport	1	5	1	3	10
23.	Springfield	37		4	3	44
23.	Spr. Juvenile	1	5	9	1	16
24.	Williamstown			1	3	4
25.	Barnstable	8	3	14		25
26.	Provincetown	3	10	18		31
27.	Pittsfield	6	6	2	6	20
28.	North Adams					
29.	Gt. Barrington					
30.	Adams	2				2
31.	Taunton		3		1	4
32.	Fall River	8	5	12	1	26
33	New Bedford	7	10	5	17	39
34.	Attleboro	2	3	9	1	15
35.	Edgartown		2	1		3
36.	Salem	3	6		4	13
37.	Amesbury	1		2		3
38.	Haverhill	5	3	1	2	11

CT No	COURT	Weekly Totals Jan 24	Apr 23	July 23	Oct 15	TOTAL
39.	Gloucester	4	13	5	4	26
40.	Ipswich			1		1
41.	Greenfield		3	4	3	10
42.	Orange			1	4	5
43.	Palmer	1	4		5	10
44.	Westfield	2		1	2	5
45.	Northampton		1	3	9	13
46.	Ware					
47.	Concord	1	3	1		5
48.	Ayer	5	3	7	7	22
49.	Framingham	13	9	4	20	46
50.	Malden	2	9	11	7	29
51.	Waltham	7	12	7	4	30
52.	Cambridge	5	4	2	8	19
53.	Woburn	2	9	4	5	20
54.	Dedham	4	1	7	4	16
55.	Stoughton	3	1	1	1	6
56.	Quincy	7	17	12	4	40
57.	Wrentham			6	5	11
58.	Hingham	5	10	15	7	37
59.	Plymouth	1	5	2	7	15
60.	Wareham	3	3	3	3	12
61.	Leominster		9		1	10
62.	Worcester	19	6	6	11	42
J62.	Wor. Juvenile	2				2
63.	Gardner	1	2	6		9
64.	Southbridge	5	1		8	14
65.	Blackstone	3	1	3		7
66.	Milford	1	2	1	7	11
67.	Westboro	10	3	8	2	23
68.	Clinton	1			4	5
69.	E. Brookfield		3		5	8
70.	Winchendon					
71.	Boston Juv.		1		1	2
72.	Barnstable Sup.		3			3
73.	Bristol Sup.	3	9	2	2	16
75.	Nantucket Sup.					
74.	Dukes Co. Sup.					
78.	Berkshire Sup.					

CT. No.	COURT	Weekly Totals Jan 24	Apr 23	July 23	Oct 15	TOTAL
77.	Essex Sup.			5		5
78.	Franklin Sup.					
79.	Hampden Sup.	23	3	6	3	35
80.	Hampshire Sup.	1	1	2		4
81.	Middlesex Sup.	4	7	5	3	19
82.	Norfolk Sup.		2		1	3
83.	Plymouth Sup.	5				5
84.	Suffolk Sup.	8	10	2	2	22
85.	Worc. Sup.	9	1	1	2	13
86.	Peabody	1		5		6
87.	Natick		1	1	4	6
88.	Nantucket					
89.	Federal (Com)					
90.	District Ct.		5	1		6
J-33	Bristol Juv		4	4		8

TOTALS	
January-1979	337
April -1979	332
July -1979	323
October-1979	337
	1,329

Brockton District Court reflected the highest volume, followed by Framingham, Springfield, Worcester, Quincy and New Bedford.

When the court data was aggregated into a distribution of drug defendants by county, Middlesex County ranked first, with 21.9 percent of the total sample. In Middlesex County, Framingham accounted for 15.8 percent of the drug defendants, followed by Marlborough at 13.1 percent. Waltham and Malden each accounted for about 10 percent of the Middlesex County drug defendants.

Suffolk County ranked second, representing 14.3 percent of the drug defendants in the 1979 sample. Within Suffolk County, Boston Municipal Court accounted for 16.32 percent of the drug defendants, followed by Roxbury, West Roxbury, Dorchester and Chelsea, each at about 14 percent of the Suffolk County drug defendants.

TABLE IV - COUNTY OF ARRAIGNMENT

BARNSTABLE COUNTY 59

25.	Barnstable	25
26.	Provincetown	31
72.	Barnstable Sup.	3

BERKSHIRE COUNTY 27

19.	Lee	1
24.	Williamstown	4
27.	Pittsfield	20
28.	North Adams	
29.	Gt. Barrington	
30.	Adams	2
76.	Berkshire Sup.	

BRISTOL COUNTY 108

31.	Taunton	4
32.	Fall River	26
33.	New Bedford	39
J33.	New Bedford Juv.	8
34.	Attleboro	15
73.	Bristol Sup.	16

DUKES COUNTY 3

35.	Edgartown	3
74.	Dukes Sup.	

ESSEX COUNTY 120

13.	Lynn	34
18.	Lawrence	11
22.	Newburyport	10
36.	Salem	13
37.	Amesbury	3
38.	Haverhill	11
39.	Gloucester	26
40.	Ipswich	1
77.	Essex Sup.	5
86.	Peabody	6

FRANKLIN COUNTY 15

41.	Greenfield	10
42.	Orange	5
78.	Franklin Sup.	

HAMPDEN COUNTY 136

17.	Holyoke	15
20.	Chicopee	11
23.	Springfield	44
J23.	Springfield Juv.	16
43.	Palmer	10
44.	Westfield	5
79.	Hampden Sup.	35

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY 17

45.	Northampton	13
46.	Ware	
80.	Hampshire Sup.	4

MIDDLESEX COUNTY 291

10.	Somerville	16
11.	Lowell	23
12.	Newton	18
21.	Marlboro	38
47.	Concord	5
48.	Ayer	22
49.	Framingham	46
50.	Malden	29
51.	Waltham	30
52.	Cambridge	19
53.	Woburn	20
81.	Middlesex Sup.	19
87.	Natick	6

NANTUCKET COUNTY

75.	Nantucket Sup.	
88.	Nantucket	

NORFOLK COUNTY 77

9.	Brookline	1
54.	Dedham	16
55.	Stoughton	6
56.	Quincy	40
57.	Wrentham	11
82.	Norfolk Sup.	3

PLYMOUTH COUNTY 127

15.	Brockton	58
58.	Hingham	37
59.	Plymouth	15
60.	Wareham	12
83.	Plymouth Sup.	5

SUFFOLK COUNTY 190

1.	Boston	31
2.	Roxbury	28
3.	South Boston	8
4.	Charlestown	
5.	East Boston	13
6.	West Roxbury	26
7.	Dorchester	25
8.	Brighton	3
14.	Chelsea	26
71.	Boston Juv.	2
84.	Suffolk Sup.	22
90.	Federal Dist.	6

WORCESTER COUNTY 150

16.	Fitchburg	15
61.	Leominster	10
62.	Worcester	42
J62.	Worcester Juv.	2
63.	Gardner	9
64.	Southbridge	14
65.	Blackstone	7
66.	Milford	11
67.	Westboro	23
68.	Clinton	5
69.	E. Brookfield	8
70.	Winchendon	
85.	Worcester Sup.	13

COUNTY TOTALS

County	No. Arr.	Rank	Perc. of Tot.
Barnstable	59	9	4.4%
Berkshire	27	10	2.0%
Bristol	108	7	8.2%
Dukes	3	13	.2%
Essex	120	6	9.0%
Franklin	15	12	1.1%
Hampden	136	4	10.2%
Hampshire	17	11	1.3%
Middlesex	291	1	21.9%
Nantucket	-	14	-
Norfolk	77	8	5.8%
Plymouth	127	5	9.6%
Suffolk	190	2	14.3%
Worcester	159	3	12.0%
Total	1329		

Worcester County ranked third, with 12.0 percent of the drug defendants in the 1979 sample. Hampden County ranked fourth, 10.2 percent, followed by Plymouth County with 9.6%.

Inasmuch as the court and county distributions were not included in the 1978 data analysis, this report cannot refine the increased volume of drug arraignments in Regions II and V by pinpointing specific courts which showed increases.

Substance by Class

The patterns of drug usage was analyzed in this section based on the class of drug used. Class D (marijuana) accounted for 60.27 percent of the cases in the 1979 sample, compared to 58.92 percent in 1978. These findings indicate that police are actively arresting persons for marijuana offenses.

TABLE V - SUBSTANCE BY CLASS

Class	Jan 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
A	29	33	18	6	26	7	16	9	89	55
B	27	28	12	35	14	25	29	9	82	97
C	10	20	12	10	13	7	11	11	46	48
D	145	161	172	199	288	204	163	237	773	801
E	9	6	4	7	2	7	8	8	23	28
Multiple	49	51	34	43	61	32	36	32	180	158
Other	16	6	13	12	14	22	13	9	56	49
Unknown	5	32	4	20	27	19	27	22	63	93
	290	337	269	332	445	323	308	337	1,312	1,329

Persons charged with multiple (two or more) classes of drug offenses ranked second in frequency, but dropped 12.22 percent over 1978. Multiple drugs account for 11.89 percent of the 1979 sample, compared to 13.72 percent in the 1978 sample.

Class B defendants represented 7.30 percent of the 1979 sample, including cocaine and amphetamines, among other drugs. Class B represented 6.25 percent in 1978. Of interest is this increase in Class B (cocaine) defendants, up 18.29 percent over 1978.

Class	1978	1979	Percent Change
A	6.78%	4.13%	-38.20%
B	6.25%	7.30%	+18.29%
C	3.51%	3.61%	+ 4.35%
D	58.92%	60.27%	+ 3.62%
E	1.75%	2.11%	+21.74%
Multiple	13.72%	11.89%	-12.22%
Other	4.27%	3.69%	-12.50%
Unknown	4.80%	7.00%	+47.62%
Total	100%	100%	

A significant shift was noted away from Class A (heroin) offenses. From 1978 to 1979, the Class A volume in the drug study samples decreased by 38.2 percent. While Class A defendants accounted for nearly 7 percent of the 1978 sample, they represented 4 percent of the defendants in 1979.

Class E (codeine, morphine, opium and prescription drugs) increased by 21.74 percent, however Class E defendants represented only 2.11 percent of the 1979 sample. The small number of Class E defendants (n=23 in 1978 and n=28 in 1979) would tend to overstate the significance of the percent increase.

The 47.62 percent increase in "unknown" drug classes indicates a growing reluctance in some areas to charge a person with a drug offense until the drug sample has been chemically analyzed. In those cases, the person is charged with "possession of controlled substance", or "violation of controlled substance act", without having a specific drug class indicated.

Class by Region

Table VI shows the distribution of drug classes by residential region of the drug defendants. A 63.27 percent reduction in Class A defendants from Region VI (Suffolk County and Brookline) was largely responsible for the 38 percent overall reduction in Class A defendants. Region VI accounted for 32 percent of the Class A defendants in 1979, compared to 55.06 percent in 1978.

TABLE VI - CLASSES BY REGIONS (Number of Cases)

Class "A"	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	5	10	3	2	2	2	5	1	15	15
Region II	3	8	-	-	3	1	1	1	7	10
Region III	1	7	1	1	1	-	1	-	4	8
Region IV	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Region V	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	6	2
Region VI	20	7	11	2	14	3	4	6	49	18
Region VII	-	2	3	-	1	-	2	-	6	2
Out/State	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	29	34	18	6	26	7	16	9	89	56

Class "B"	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	6	9	-	-	1	3	-	-	7	12
Region II	-	4	1	2	-	1	1	-	2	7
Region III	2	3	-	4	-	1	6	1	8	9
Region IV	3	6	4	8	1	1	6	2	14	17
Region V	3	1	1	4	3	1	1	2	8	8
Region VI	12	2	2	8	3	11	5	2	23	23
Region VII	1	3	3	6	5	7	6	2	15	18
Out/State	-	-	1	3	1	-	3	-	5	3
	27	28	12	35	14	25	29	9	82	97

Class "C"	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	1	3	4
Region II	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	4
Region III	2	1	3	2	3	-	2	2	10	5
Region IV	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	3
Region V	1	4	1	2	-	-	2	1	4	7
Region VI	5	4	4	5	3	1	4	6	16	16
Region VII	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	9	6
Out/State	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
	10	20	12	10	13	7	11	11	46	48

(Cont.) TABLE VI - CLASSES BY REGIONS (Number of Cases)

Class "D"	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	12	26	34	14	32	20	35	46	113	106
Region II	15	27	29	28	36	24	24	41	104	120
Region III	18	12	11	26	50	17	22	21	101	76
Region IV	21	9	17	39	41	24	21	21	100	93
Region V	20	28	18	31	34	36	13	45	85	140
Region VI	28	15	33	19	26	28	7	14	94	76
Region VII	28	37	25	41	53	54	39	47	145	179
Out/State	3	7	5	1	16	1	7	2	31	11
	145	161	172	199	238	204	158	237	773	801

Class "E"	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	4
Region II	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Region III	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	3	3
Region IV	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	2	2	6
Region V	3	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	4	3
Region VI	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	7	5
Region VII	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	4
Out/State	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	9	6	4	7	2	7	8	8	23	28

Multiple	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	May 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	5	18	3	4	3	7	2	5	13	34
Region II	8	9	5	6	4	2	2	7	19	24
Region III	3	1	1	1	12	2	3	1	19	5
Region IV	10	6	3	10	6	4	3	3	22	23
Region V	6	3	9	5	5	5	4	4	24	17
Region VI	13	3	4	5	9	5	8	2	34	15
Region VII	4	9	7	12	16	6	14	10	41	37
Out/State	-	2	2	-	6	-	-	-	8	2
	49	51	34	43	61	31	36	32	180	157

Other	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	May 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	3	-	-	2	1	3	1	-	5	5
Region II	-	3	3	-	-	4	-	2	3	9
Region III	2	1	3	-	4	-	3	1	12	2
Region IV	2	-	2	2	2	2	2	1	8	5
Region V	2	1	1	4	3	1	2	1	9	7
Region VI	4	1	2	2	2	9	2	2	10	14
Region VII	3	-	1	2	2	4	3	1	9	7
Out/State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	16	6	13	12	14	23	13	9	56	50

Unknown	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	May 1978	Oct. 1979	Total 1978	Total 1979
Region I	-	3	-	-	-	-	6	1	6	4
Region II	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	3
Region III	-	9	-	2	6	7	4	5	10	23
Region IV	-	2	-	4	4	2	4	3	8	11
Region V	4	3	1	6	10	6	5	5	20	20
Region VI	-	6	-	4	2	3	4	6	6	19
Region VII	1	6	3	3	3	1	2	1	9	11
Out/State	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	1
	5	31	4	20	27	19	27	22	63	92

Increases in Class B (cocaine) were evenly distributed in Region I, II, IV and VII, with the other areas remaining constant to the 1978 levels. Class C (LSD, hashish) showed a reduction in Region III, with little change in the other regions when 1978 and 1979 data were compared.

Class D (marijuana) increased by 3.62 percent from 1978 to 1979. However, shifts were noted in all regions of the state. Region II (+15.38%), Region V (+64.71%), and Region VII (+23.45%) all reflected sizeable increases in the volume of persons charged with marijuana related offenses. Region I (-6.19%), Region III (-24.75%), Region VI (-7.00%), Region VI (-19.15%) and Out of State defendants (-64.52%) showed a decreased frequency of Class D offenses.

Class E (prescription drugs) increased by 21.74 percent. However, because of the small overall frequency (n=28 in 1979), analysis by regions would overinflate the significance of increases or decreases. No clear patterns of regional shifts were evident.

Persons charged with multiple classes of drugs decreased 12.22 percent from 1978 to 1979. However, Region I increased 161.54 percent, while Region II increased by 26.32 percent. Region VI (Suffolk County and Brookline) reflected a 55.88 percent reduction in persons charged with multiple classes of drug offenses.

Simultaneous Offenses

The question often arises as to whether drug defendants commit crime to support their drug habits; and if so, are their crimes against people or property? The data in Table VII indicates that 61 percent of the defendants in the 1979 samples were charged with drug offenses only, with no additional criminal offenses.

In the 1979 sample, 39 percent of the defendants were charged with simultaneous criminal offenses in addition to the drug crime: 14 percent were charged with various public order crimes, 11 percent were charged with crimes against property, 10 percent were charged with motor vehicle violations, and 4 percent were charged with crimes against persons.

TABLE VII - SIMULTANEOUS OFFENSES

Offense	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
Drug Only	171	207	168	212	278	191	185	192	802	802
Against Person	20	18	10	11	16	11	14	14	60	54
Against Prop.	36	39	30	41	36	38	43	32	145	150
Sex	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	2	3	4
Motor Vehicle	35	44	28	34	55	29	29	31	147	138
Public Order	27	28	33	34	58	53	37	66	155	181
	290	337	269	332	445	323	308	337	1,312	1,329

The motor vehicle violations were largely for "driving under the influence". Public Order offenses were either alcohol related (such as possession of open containers) or trespassing.

The incidence of persons charged with simultaneous offenses increased 13 percent over 1978.

Type of Controlled Substance Offenses

In the 1979 sample, 69.45 percent of the persons were charged with possession (or presence) compared to 67.07 percent in 1978, indicating a 4.89 percent increase when the two years were compared.

TABLE VIII - TYPE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OFFENSE

	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
Possession or Presence	180	211	181	234	326	225	193	252	880	923
Possession with Dist. or Int. to Distribute	92	110	74	86	98	75	96	76	360	347
Other	18	16	14	12	21	22	19	9	72	59
	290	337	269	332	445	323	308	337	1,312	1,329

Those charged with distribution or intent to distribute dropped 3.61 percent from 1978 to 1979, accounting for 26.11 percent of the defendants in 1979 compared to 27.44 percent in 1978.

Distributors by Drug Class

In the 1979 sample, 26.11 percent of the defendants were charged with distribution or intent to distribute. The volume of persons charged as distributors of Class A decreased by 50% from 1978 to 1979, while Class B dropped 6.25 percent and Class C dropped 44.00 percent.

Class D distributors increased by 10.53 percent, and distributors of multiple classes of drugs increased by 25.40 percent.

TABLE IX - DISTRIBUTE/INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE, BY CLASS

	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	May 1978	Apr. 1979	Aug. 1978	July 1979	Nov. 1978	Oct. 1979	TOTAL 1978	TOTAL 1979
Class A	21	20	14	3	15	5	14	4	64	32
Class B	14	13	6	17	12	11	16	4	48	45
Class C	3	7	11	3	5	-	6	4	25	14
Class D	28	33	35	31	42	37	28	46	133	147
Class E	1	1	-	2	1	3	4	-	6	6
Multiple	21	28	8	22	14	13	20	16	63	79
Unknown	4	8	-	8	9	6	8	2	21	24
	92	110	74	86	98	75	96	76	360	347

Class D distributors accounted for 42.36 percent of the drug distributors in the 1979 sample, compared to 36.94 percent in 1978. Distributors selling multiple classes of drugs accounted for 22.77 percent of the 1979 sample, compared to 17.50 percent in 1978.

Class A distributors represented 17.78 percent of the 1978 sample, but accounted for 9.22 percent in 1979 -- again, indicative of the overall decreased arrests for heroin from 1978 to 1979.

Distributors by Drug Class	1978	1979	Percent Change
A	17.78%	9.22%	- 50.00%
B	13.33%	12.97%	- 6.25%
C	6.94%	4.03%	- 44.00%
D	36.94%	42.36%	+ 10.53%
E	1.67%	1.73%	0
Multiple	17.50%	22.77%	+ 25.40%
Unknown	5.84%	6.92%	+ 14.29%
	100.00%	100.00%	- 3.61%

Summary

People 25 years of age and under comprise three-quarters (76.3%) of those charged with drug offenses in the 1979 sample of 1,329 cases. Juveniles (under 17 years) represented 14.1 percent of the drug defendants.

Drug defendants appear to be evenly dispersed across the state, with Region V and Region VII somewhat overrepresented.

Class A (heroin) offenses have shown a steady reduction in frequency since 1976, and the volume of Class A defendants dropped by 38.2 percent from 1978 to 1979. The volume of Class D (marijuana) defendants has continued to gradually increase, up 3.62 percent over 1978.

Drawing off the total annual estimate of 17,277 drug defendants in Massachusetts in 1979, an estimated 10,413 were for possession or distribution of marijuana, indicating active police activity regarding Class D drugs.

Shifts in the volume of arraignments for drug crimes may be a function of actual changes in drug usage or may be related to discretionary issues within local criminal justice agencies.

Appendix -- Four Year Comparison
(1976 - 1979)

Table A -- Age at Arraignment

Table B -- Residence by Region

Table C -- Substance by Class

Table D -- Type of Controlled Substance Offense

Table E -- Simultaneous Offenses (1978 v. 1979 only)

Table F -- Distribution by Class (1977 - 1979 only)

TABLE A -- Age at Arraignment (1976-1979), Frequency & Percent

Age	1976 #	1976 %	1977 #	1977 %	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
under 14	5	1%	17	2%	33	2.5%	30	2.2%
15-16	64	8%	106	10%	133	10.1%	158	11.9%
17-18	136	17%	243	22%	258	19.7%	243	18.3%
19-21	199	25%	195	18%	303	23.1%	347	26.1%
22-25	188	24%	297	27%	274	20.9%	236	17.8%
26+	191	24%	236	22%	308	23.5%	314	23.6%
Unknown	2	-	-	-	3	.2%	1	.1%
TOTAL	785	99%	1,094	101%	1,312	100%	1,329	100%

TABLE B -- Residence by Region (1976-1979), Frequency & Percent

Region	1976 #	1976 %	1977 #	1977 %	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
I	131	17%	153	14%	163	12.4%	184	13.8%
II	95	12%	164	15%	138	10.5%	178	13.4%
III	76	10%	131	12%	167	12.7%	131	9.9%
IV	61	8%	103	9%	156	11.9%	159	11.9%
V	85	11%	164	15%	160	12.2%	204	15.3%
VI	219	28%	183	17%	239	18.2%	186	14.0%
VII	61	8%	155	14%	239	18.2%	265	19.9%
Out of St.	17	2%	41	5%	50	3.9%	22	1.7%
Unknown	40	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	785	101%	1,094	100%	1,312	100%	1,329	99.9%

TABLE C -- Substance by Class (1976-1979), Frequency & Percent

Class	1976 #	1976 %	1977 #	1977 %	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
A	124	16%	125	11%	89	6.7%	55	4.1%
B	56	7%	56	5%	82	6.3%	97	7.3%
C	33	5%	45	4%	46	3.5%	48	3.6%
D	399	51%	660	60%	773	58.9%	801	60.3%
E	16	2%	12	1%	23	1.8%	28	2.1%
Multiple	101	13%	136	12%	180	13.7%	158	11.9%
Other	47	6%	27	3%	56	4.3%	49	3.7%
Unknown	9	1%	33	3%	63	4.8%	93	7.0%
TOTAL	785	101%	1,094	99%	1,312	100%	1,329	100%

TABLE D -- Type of Controlled Substance Offense, (1976-1979)

Offense	1976 #	1976 %	1977 #	1977 %	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
Possess. or Present	542	61%	751	69%	880	67.1%	923	69.5%
Distrib. or Int.	141	18%	274	25%	360	27.4%	347	26.1%
Others	102	21%	69	6%	72	5.5%	59	4.4%
TOTAL	785	100%	1,094	100%	1,312	100%	1,329	100%

TABLE E -- Simultaneous Offenses (1978-1979), Type of Offense & Percent

	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
DRUG ONLY	802	61.1%	802	60.4%
Ag. Person	60	4.6%	54	4.1%
Ag. Propty.	145	11.1%	150	11.3%
Sex	3	.2%	4	.3%
Motor Veh.	147	11.2%	138	10.4%
Pub.Order	155	11.8%	181	13.6%
TOTAL	1,312	100%	1,329	100%

TABLE F -- Distribution by Class (1977-1979)

Class	1977 #	1977 %	1978 #	1978 %	1979 #	1979 %
A	61	22%	64	17.8%	32	9.2%
B	25	9%	48	13.3%	45	13.0%
C	22	9%	25	6.9%	14	4.0%
D	120	44%	133	36.9%	147	42.4%
E	1	-	6	1.7%	6	1.7%
Multiple	29	11%	63	17.6%	79	22.8%
Unknown	16	6%	21	5.8%	24	6.9%
TOTAL	274	101%	360	100%	347	100%